



LUIGI NALDINI, of Italian nationality, is awarded the 2019 Jeantet-Collen Prize for Translational Medicine for his pioneering work taking gene therapy from the bench to the bedside, allowing to treat several genetic diseases.

Gene therapy can treat inherited diseases by replacing a malfunctioning gene with a functional copy of it in the affected cells, or by editing the mutant genomic sequence to the common version. Luigi Naldini has been a pioneer in the development of safe lentiviral vectors for gene therapy, having achieved success in the treatment of patients suffering from several rare fatal disorders.

Luigi Naldini will use the prize money to pave the way to the next generation of safer and more effective hematopoietic stem cell therapies based on precision genetic engineering by targeted gene editing.